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## AQUATIC PLAY EQUIPMENT

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6 Claims. (Cl. 272—56.5)

This invention relates to a piece of play or athletic equipment and is more particularly concerned with a piece of aquatic equipment for use on a turf or lawn and upon which persons can slide or body plane.

It is a well known and frequently practiced sport, wherever large bodies of water are found, to run along the water's edge and then leap and project one's body in a horizontal plane so as to land flat on the surface of the water and plane thereacross. This sport is commonly referred to as body planing, and can be practiced with or without the use and aid of planing boards or air mattresses, which boards or mattresses consist of flat, lightweight rectangular structures adapted to be held on one's hand and positioned against one's chest or upper abdomen when planing.

This sport is best practiced in very shallow water so that one's body does not submerge too deeply. Accordingly, the person practicing the sport is, in reality, planing across the bottom beneath the water, and the water serves primarily as a lubricating film.

In practice, the ideal natural environment for body planing is where an extremely shallow body of water occurs over a flat, slick, soft clay or muddy bottom. Under these conditions a person can body plane for a considerable distance, often in excess of 20 feet.

The above ideal environment is seldom found. However, the sport is practiced without much concern for the environment and, as a result, with varying degrees of success.

Another sport, similar in nature to body planing, is sliding, that is, placing oneself on a slick or smooth inclined surface and allowing oneself to slide down the said surface by the force of gravity. This sport is practiced widely and in many different environments. One extremely popular and most ideal natural environment for sliding, but which is not readily available, is a moist, slick, mud or clay bank, such as is frequently found along the shores and/or edges of large bodies of water.

The primary disadvantages with the ideal natural environments for body planing and sliding set forth above are, first, the scarcity of such places, second, the fact that mud and clay frequently carry sharp and abrasive materials which are dangerous, and, third, such material is extremely messy and generally distasteful or unpleasant, and requires that one having played therein bathe and clean himself and his wearing apparel vigorously and thoroughly.

An object of the present invention is to provide a structure across or along which a person can slide or body plane.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a structure of the character referred to which has all of the desirable features of natural ideal body planing or sliding environments, such as referred to above, and yet eliminates the undesirable features of such environments.

Still another object of the present invention is to pro-

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vide a structure of the character referred to which has an elongate, flexible, soft, smooth, water-lubricated surface over which a person can slide or plane, and which is safe, clean, easy and economical to manufacture and maintain.

A feature of this invention is to provide an elongate, horizontally disposed film-like strip of flexible material having a smooth upper or top surface, a soft, flexible, and/or resilient support for the strip, and irrigating means extending longitudinally of the strip to distribute a film of lubricating water over the said surface of the strip.

It is an object of this invention to provide an irrigating means that can be easily and conveniently connected with a conventional garden hose and which is related to the strip in such a manner as to establish a dike along a side edge thereof and thereby prevent excessive lateral run-off of the lubricating water.

Another object of this invention is to provide a strip formed of a water-proof and/or water repellant material or of a material having its top surface treated with a water-proofing and/or water repellant material so as to cause the lubricating water deposited thereon to normally stand or bead thereon, so as to maintain the desired distribution of such water and so that the water will readily flow thereacross, that is, to provide a strip which is not so porous and/or absorbent as to allow the water deposited thereon to flow therethrough or to be absorbed thereby.

Another object of this invention is to provide a strip of the character referred to having a smooth top surface which is not adversely affected by water and such that it would cut or abrade one's skin when lubricated.

An object of my invention is to provide a strip of the character referred to that can be applied to and extended across a turf or lawn so that the turf or lawn provides a soft resilient support for the strip.

Still another object of this invention is to provide a structure of the character referred to wherein the soft, resilient support for the strip consists of an elongate, flat, horizontally disposed sheet of foam plastic or rubber which is coextensive with the under side of the strip.

A further object of my invention is to provide a structure of the character referred to wherein the irrigating means is in the form of an elongate duct formed on or integrally with the strip to extend longitudinally along one side thereof, and which is provided with or establishes a plurality of longitudinally spaced, laterally, inwardly disposed apertures to discharge water flowing within the duct over the top of the strip.

Another object of this invention is to provide a structure of the character referred to that can be easily and conveniently rolled up to establish a cylindrical roll or package for the purpose of storing and/or shipping.

The various objects and features of my invention will be fully understood from the following detailed description of typical preferred forms and applications of my invention, throughout which description reference is made to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the structure that I provide, showing it in use;

Fig. 2 is an enlarged detailed sectional view taken as indicated by line 2—2 on Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a detailed sectional view taken as indicated by line 3—3 on Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of a portion of another form of the invention;

Fig. 5 is an enlarged detailed sectional view taken as indicated by line 5—5 on Fig. 4;

Fig. 6 is a sectional view taken as indicated by line 6—6 on Fig. 4;